war, is yet to receive, after 33 years, the promised four hectares of unirrigated land and 300 sq. metres of residential land, after infructuous correspondence for the last 30 years with officials of Maharashtra Government; and

(b) if so, will the Defence Ministry lend its helping hand to get the matter sorted out for this 70 years old war hero?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. However, as per Appendix to CCO No. 60/72 a Sena Medal awardee in State of Maharashtra is authorized to receive the following incentives:

(i) Cash incentive Rs. 3000/-.

(ii) Dry Crop land or reasonably irrigated land or perennially irrigated land (as per allotment of land)—4/2/1 acre.

(iii) Residential plot-200 sq yds.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry will take up the case with the Government of Maharashtra so as to enable Col. (Retd.) Suresh Y Rege to get his dues/ incentives.

Establishment of Thermal Imager Detector Unit in A.P.

1818. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in the Ministry for establishing Bharat Electronics Limited's Thermal Imager Detector Unit at either Machilipatnam or Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal sent by the Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) when such request was received in the Ministry;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh agreed to extend all support for the establishment of the above Unit in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, what action the Ministry has contemplated on the request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) A request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh was received in April this year for establishing Bharat Electronics Limited's (BEL) Thermal Imager Detector Unit at either Machilipatnam or at Hyderabad. The State Government had proposed to provide the necessary support facility for the purpose. The "detector" is a high technology, costly and proprietary sub-system presently being imported. The technology is akin to semi-conductor technology and can be cost-effectively undertaken at a location where expertise and infrastructure in terms of manpower and machinery exist for manufacture of semi-conductors. Such skills and infrastructure are not available at Machilipatnam and Hyderabad. BEL has not finalised any plans for manufacture of the "detector" due to technological complexity and involvement of huge investment for technology transfer and creating infrastructure.

Indo-Russian Naval Exercise

1819. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy carried out an operational exercise with the Russian Navy in the Indian Ocean for the first time;

(b) if so, whether the new thrust was on Anti-Submarine Warfare and Air Defence; and

(c) if so, the significance of this exercise and the extent of cooperation between the two Navies?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It will not be in public interest to divulge further details regarding these joint exercises.

Funds for Ranikhet Cantonment Board

†1820. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise amount provided as grant for various items to Ranikhet Cantonment Board during the last few years;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.